

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06

PRS-01 NSCE-00 /051 W

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R 111234Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0268

INFO USUN NEW YORK 0267

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0259

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GJ, US

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF GRENADA INVITATION TO PRESIDENT FORD

REF STATE 032233

1. PM GAIRY INTRODUCED HIS PROJECTED APRIL 16-19
EASTER WATER PARADE TO ME ON JANUARY 26 AT SEAWELL
AIRPORT. NOTHING HAS BEEN REDUCED TO WRITING, HOWEVER,
REGARDING PLANS OR PURPOSE. HE INVITED
US TO SET UP BOOTHS, AND JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, INVITED
THE NAVY'S BLUE ANGELS TO FLY OVER. WE UNDERSTAND THE
PRINCIPAL FEATURE OF THE GOG-SPONSORED EVENT IS
COLLECTION OF WATER-BORNE FLOATS; ACHORED IN YACHT
BASIN AND SMALL HARBOR (CAREENAGE) OF CAPITAL CITY,
ST. GEORGE'S THEY WOULD SERVE AS SETTING FOR "WATER
SPORTS" AND LAND ENTERTAINMENT DURING THE GOG DECLARED
WEEK-LONG EASTER HOLIDAY. PM IS EAGERLY PUSHING THE PROJECT.

2. WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT WILL BE A FAILURE, FROM THE
STANDPOINT OF BROAD INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION. LEAD
TIME IS ENTIRELY TOO SHORT TO PERMIT ADEQUATE PLANNING;
CAPACITY OF LIAT, ONLY AIR CARRIER FLYING TO GRENADA,
IS VERY LIMITED; AND, UNLESS -- CONTRARY TO OUR
EXPECTATIONS -- LARGE NUMBERS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS
PARTICIPATE, EVENT IS LIKELY TO BE AMATEURISH AFFAIR
WITH LITTLE APPEAL TO VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE GRENADA.

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NEIGHBORING GOB TOURISM MINISTER PETER MORGAN, AS OF

TODAY, HASN'T EVEN HEARD OF IT.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT US REGRET INABILITY TO PARTICIPATE,
IN LIGHT OF ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, AND USG PREOCCUPATION
WITH OTHER LONG PLANNED EVENTS INCLUDING BICENTENNIAL.
EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO LET THE PM DOWN EASY, IF POSSIBLE.
BRITTON

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NNN

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